GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:150
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
ANTI- AIDS DRUGS AT CONCESSIONAL RATES
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the Indian Drug Manufactures to provide anit-AIDS drugs to local people at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for increased involvement of private sector in HIV/AIDS prevention measures

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 150 FOR 3RD AUGUST, 2005

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons are following:

The Government is already giving the ARV drugs recommended by WHO free of cost through selected government hospitals spread over different parts of the country.

The Government has already reduced the cost of ten generic ARV drugs by exempting the payment of central excise duty on them such as Stavudine, Zidovudine, Lamivudine, Nevirapine, Efavirenz, Didanosine, Indinavir, Ritonavir, Nelfinavir and Saquinavir.

NACO has been able to purchase ARV drugs at very competitive rates through open competitive bidding.

(d) The National AIDS Control Programme is implementing preventive measures among the High Risk Groups through NGOs. Presently 922 NGOs are implementing 965 Targeted Intervention Projects among the High Risk Groups, such as the Female Sex Workers, Injecting Drug Users, migrant workers, truckers and Men having Sex with Men. 58 NGOs are running 60 Community Care Centres. NGOs are also running Drop-in-Centres for HIV positive individuals and School AIDS Education Programme. Under the Global Fund for Prevention of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) project, they are involved in conducting counseling, outreach services and providing referral linkages with institutions providing Anti Retroviral Therapy.